

An essential component of these efforts is the UASI grant program, which provides financial assistance to address the unique planning, operations, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas.

As you know so well, the AUSI program is critical to helping our cities build and sustain capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism.

In my district, the Portland Urban Area has been a recipient of UASI grant funds since FY 2003. This critical funding has enhanced regional collaboration and coordination within and between responder disciplines and across jurisdictions.

The Portland Urban Area is more secure as a result, but most certainly has further to go, and must continue its partnership with the UASI program.

Problematically, Portland is no longer a recipient of UASI funding, with little notice that would have allowed proper planning for alternative methods to meet their security needs, and with little transparency as to why this is the case.

The FY 2012 program funded the top 31 highest risk urban areas in the country. And while the FY 2013 appropriations bill funds the program at a nearly equal level than the year before, unfortunately it also contains language that limits use of the UASI funds to no more than the top 25 highest risk urban areas, a cap which seems arbitrary and not based in risk or threat data.

This cap is having a significant impact. Important regional areas like Portland, Orlando, Las Vegas and New Orleans have been eliminated from FY13 funding despite being national centers of tourism and commerce.

Under no circumstances are Portland and the other affected cities any less vulnerable to terrorism than they were 12 months ago.

And in the last 12 months, the Portland Urban Area has gone from a ranking of 23 11 months ago, 29 one month ago, and 27 weeks ago. How can a city plan with such drastic changes in ranking, with little notice? Clearly the metrics used by DHS are flawed, or at the very least, are not adapted to operate within a 25-city cap.

The federal government has a responsibility to be a partner with our local communities, protecting our citizens from terrorist threats, and moderating potential impacts from natural disasters. While diminished resources are a factor for all levels of government, there should be some certainty for our communities that the federal government will be a continuing partner and when.

In the long term, I would deeply appreciate an opportunity to engage with this Committee, my Senate colleagues, and all local cities impacted, to better understand this issue, and the future of the UASI program.

And in the short term, the FY 2013 appropriations for DHS included \$188 million in discretionary homeland security grant funds. The Secretary has latitude to apply these funds to previously eliminated grant programs including the UASI program.

I would urge the Secretary to use some of this funding to the jurisdictions on that have fallen below the FY13 cap. This bridge funding would greatly assist these communities to continue their anti-terrorism coordination at some level while working to achieve sustainable funding in the years to come.

There are also common-sense reforms that can strengthen the federal-local partnership for the UASI program by, for example, extending the timeline for cities to use these grant dollars. The shifting timeline from 4, to 3, and now 2 years adds another layer of difficulty to planning and utilizing these dollars as effectively and comprehensively as possible.

I sincerely appreciate the courtesy of my colleagues for taking my concerns into consideration and I look forward to addressing this issue with you in a comprehensive and thoughtful way, something you both know how to do so very well.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,726,834,732.35. We've added \$6,111,849,785,819.27 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### STEPHANIE SHEPHERD

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie Shepherd for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stephanie Shepherd is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephanie Shepherd is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stephanie Shepherd for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### HONORING SERGE MARSHALL DAVIS

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, educating our children is one of the most important functions of a society. Preparing our children for the future is the best thing we can do for them and

for our society. Serge Marshall Davis, the principal of the Sheila Mencher School in the Bronx is a man who has taken that message to heart.

He is dedicated to improving the lives of the young people in his care by meeting the challenges of providing for them a high quality education. This includes children from many different countries speaking a variety of languages and dialects.

He instituted and maintained a variety of programs including a middle school honors program, health oriented programs, the use of teacher specialists including mentors, inter-visitations by teachers, using data to improve instruction, and middle school community service among so many others. His school even won the Bronx Middle School Poetry Slam this year and was the Ball Room Dance Grand Champions in 2010.

Under Principal Davis the school and its students have flourished through a well rounded education for the children from pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade.

Serge Marshall Davis is being honored for his dedication as principal to improving the lives of the young people in his care and for meeting the challenges of providing for them a high quality education.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESKATON MONROE LODGE INDEPENDENT LIVING

#### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Eskaton Monroe Lodge as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the hard-working staff, volunteers and supporters who have ensured that this fine organization is able to provide valuable senior living and social services to Sacramento's seniors.

Established in 1973 and located in the historic Land Park neighborhood of Sacramento, Eskaton Monroe Lodge was built by Eskaton, a non-profit health care organization based in Sacramento, as its first residential facility. While the buildings and property have been enhanced over the years, many of the original features and landscape have been preserved. Today, the property consists of almost one hundred apartments and continues to allow seniors to live independently and to the fullest extent possible in a comfortable and secure setting. Eskaton Monroe Lodge continues to offer a wide array of services and programs dedicated to improving the lives of Sacramento's seniors and their families.

Eskaton Monroe Lodge offers its residents a variety of services including blood pressure clinics, access to the public library's bookmobile, church services, and continuing education programs pertinent to seniors. Also offered are activities such as exercise and wellness classes, movie showings, live artistic performances, craft groups, and many more which allow for social interaction. In addition, residents have access to transportation services that can get them to doctor appointments, grocery stores, and banks, and be able to run personal errands.